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1996/12/03

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BIOGRAPHIC REPORT - CHINA

BIO: GENERAL CHI (PRONOUNCED CHUR) HAOTIAN, PEOPLE'S LIBERATION
ARMY (PLA) (U)

(U)
(C/NO) POSITION:

- * Minister of National Defense and State Councilor since March 1993
- * Member, People's Republic of China Central Military Commission since 1988
- * Vice Chairman of the Military Commission since September 1995

(U)
(C/NO) SIGNIFICANCE:

- * National-level leader who plays a major role in formulating and implementing Chinese military policies
- * Represents the PLA on Beijing's top foreign policymaking body, the Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Leading Group
- * Position as Defense Minister is largely ceremonial and involves hosting high-level foreign officials, military delegations and overseeing the external relations/activities of the PLA

(U)
(C/NO) POLITICS:

- * Career political commissar, continually stressed the importance of party control over the military
- * Member of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee
- * Representative to the 9th and 11th National Party Congresses
- * Member of the 13th Central Committee in 1987
- * Elected to the MC in April 1988 while serving as Chief of the PLA's General Staff and was MC Vice Chairman in September 1995

** desires good military-to-military relations with the United States, viewing them as a practical way of upgrading China's military capabilities

Declassified by: JICPAC, Mr. Finis Jeffery, ONN
Date declassified by: 27 June 1997
Authority: E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.5(c)

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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~~(C/UC)~~ PERSONAL DATA:

- * Son of peasants, born in Zhaoyuan, Shandong Province, 22 July 1929
- * Took part in more than 100 battles and was wounded five times; he purportedly still has three shell fragments in his body
- * Decorated nine times and was awarded the title People's Hero, 3d Class, in 1949
- * Married to Jiang Qingping, a retired naval medical worker; they have two children and two grandchildren
- * Does not speak English

(U)

~~(C/UC)~~ CAREER:

- * Joined the PLA in 1944 and was assigned to the legendary 8th Route Army and fought in critical campaigns during both the Sino-Japanese war and the Chinese civil war
- * 1955 served as director of a regimental political department
- * 1958-60 attended the Nanjing General Advanced Infantry School and later the Nanjing Military Academy
- * 1971 Served as its senior political officer when the 27th moved to Beijing — possibly to provide Mao Zedong with loyal troops during the height of the Cultural Revolution
- * 1973, appointed one of four deputy political commissars of the Beijing Military Region
- * 1976 Reportedly played a key role in the arrest of the infamous "Gang of Four", which ended the Cultural Revolution and set the stage for Deng Xiaoping's return to power
- * May 1977 Named deputy director of People's Daily, China's principal propaganda organ.
- * Nov 1977, named Deputy Chief of the General Staff under Deng Xiaoping and Liu Huaqing
- * 1982. Disappeared from public view: reporting suggests he fell into political disfavor, while other reporting claims quietly assumed the post of Director of the Political Department at PLA General Headquarters
- * Nov 1987, appointed Chief of the General Staff. Awarded the rank of general when ranks were restored in October 1988 and named to the MC
- * During the Tiananmen incident, he reportedly initially resisted using the PLA to quell the student uprising but nonetheless issued the movement orders to PLA units involved in the massacre
- * He was appointed Minister of Defense and State Councilor in March 1993 and was named a MC Vice Chairman in September 1995
- * ~~(U) (C/UC)~~ Traveled extensively, visited Russia and Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, Pakistan, Africa, and South America
- * Led an official delegation to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, with an unofficial stop in Italy

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